

Remarks

The Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of claims 1, 3-6, 9-21, 72 and 74 in the most recent Office Action. The Examiner has rejected claims 25, 26 and 28 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent 3,795,037 to Luttmer (hereinafter the '037 patent), and has objected to claim 27 as being dependent upon claim 25, but indicated it would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. By the present response, claims 25 through 28 have been amended.

The device of the '037 patent relates to an electrical connector **1** that utilizes strips **10, 40** of conductive material that are embedded in an elastomeric material **21**, as shown in FIGS. 1 through 3 and 9. The strips **10, 40** are resilient, enhancing the resiliency of electrical connector **1**. Electric contact is made across electrical connector **1** through the spaced strips **10, 40**.

By way of contrast, amended claims 25 through 28 each require elastic member/conductive member configurations that are neither taught nor suggested by the '037 patent. For example, claims 25 and 26 recite that the conductive member is made up of numerous conductive particles that are disposed at least on top of or within the elastic member. Support for this position is found by reference to FIGS. 13 and 14 and the accompanying description at page 17 of the present application as filed. Similarly, independent claim 27 and dependent claim 28 recite a layer of conductive material formed in or on the elastic member, as shown in FIGS. 15 through 17, and described at pages 17 and 18 of the present application as filed. FIGS. 16 and 17 particularly show the material in the form of interwoven threads, while claim 28 specifically requires the material to be in the form of threads.

The Applicants respectfully submit that, in view of the above amendments and remarks, claims 1, 3-6, 9-21, 25 through 28, 72 and 74 in the application are now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned to resolve efficiently any formal matters or to discuss any aspects of the application or of this response. Otherwise, early notification of allowable subject matter is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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